

Gunmen kill seven, abduct 54 in Plateau, Kaduna, Bauchi

TERROR attacks are showing no signs of abating.

Since the weekend, gunmen have launched attacks on communities in Plateau, Kaduna and Bauchi states, killing and taking hostages.

On Sunday night, suspected herders killed seven persons in Jos South council of Plateau State.

The incident happened less than 24 hours after 18 people were killed in a clash between bandits and vigilantes in Wase council of the state.

National Publicity Secretary of the Berom Youth Moulders Association, Rwang Tengwong, confirmed the latest attack.

Tengwong said: "Seven people have been confirmed dead at Danda Chugwi community following an attack by Fulani militias. The attack happened on Sunday at around 9:00pm."

"Some sustained serious gunshot injuries and were taken to Vom Christian hospital for medical treatment."

Police and the military task force in the state were yet to make a statement on the attack before press time.

Governor Simon Lalong expressed outrage over the attack.

He directed security forces to ensure that those behind it are apprehended and punished.

The governor sympathised with families of the victims

• Damari residents after the attack

From Kolade Adeyemi, Jos, AbdulGafar Alabelewe, Kaduna and David Adenuga, Bauchi

of the attack, according to a statement by his spokesman, Dr. Makut Simon Macham.

In the past 72 hours, terror groups have kept up attack on Damari community of Birnin Gwari council of Kaduna State.

Over 50 persons have been abducted.

Birnin-Gwari Emirate Progressives' Union (BEPU) in a statement yesterday said the attack followed the withdrawal of Ansaru, a splinter

group of Boko Haram, from the area.

Recently, bandits attacked Damari but were repelled by the Ansaru group.

Two locals were killed in the incident while several properties were destroyed.

A shop, two vehicles and one hospital were burnt.

Chairman of BEPU, Ishaq Usman Kasai, said, "As at Saturday, bandits encircled Damari and abducted about 50 people, shortly after troops from military field-base went to the town and escorted some remnants of the residents who were willing to move to comfort zones in neighbouring communities

even to faraway Zaria.

"The most worrisome situation is where a pregnant woman was running alongside others for safety and could not meet up with the pace of the fleeing group; she fell down and put to bed a baby boy but unfortunately, both the mother and the baby lost their lives."

"Damari is considered as the largest town in the entire Eastern part of Birnin-Gwari and with this worrisome development, about 20,000 persons including women and children are internally displaced.

"On Sunday, the bandits returned to the town unchal-

lenged, burnt a vehicle, kidnapped scores, intercepted and maltreated people, a serious development that reflects the level of serious insecurity situation facing our community."

Kasai said BEPU sympathised with Damari residents over the attack.

In Bauchi, kidnappers abducted three family members and another resident at the Rafin Ciyawa village in Ningi council.

The Nation gathered that the gunmen invaded the village last Thursday, at about 2 am, during which they abducted an Igbo businessman, his nursing wife, their baby

as well as his salesboy.

The gunmen were said to have shot in the air to scare people away.

Chairperson of Ningi LGA, Mamuda Hassan Tabla, who confirmed the development to our correspondent, said the wife and baby of the businessman have been released while he and his salesboy remained in their custody.

Police spokesman Ahmed Wakili confirmed the attack, adding that the Commissioner of Police, Umar Sanda has directed the DPO of Ningi, Burra, and the Area Commander to commence investigations"



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